

The need to implement the proposed research project can be substantiated as follows:

1. Agricultural economy is the object of both empirical and theoretical research. Agriculture has been discussed in numerous studies in the relevant literature although, what needs to be emphasised, many studies published before 1989 did not satisfy the criteria of academic works. Due to ideological limitations, a number of significant issues were purposefully omitted. The works published after 1989 have mainly touched upon socio-political problems, they have discussed the issues of developing and populating Lower Silesia in detail (M. Ordyłowski, *Wieś dolnośląska 1945-1956. Władza a społeczeństwo*), thoroughly discussed was the issue of land use and settlement of Lower Silesia (works of K. E. and F. Kusiak on rural settlement, M. Szarota -urban settlements, K. Fiedor- economy of Lower Silesia) yet economic considerations have not been sufficiently examined. There have been many studies about migration of people (studies of K. Kersten, B. Pasierb), activity of PUR (studies of S. Banasiak or new of D. Sula). There were studies about military settlement (L. Stys, A. Ogrodowczyk), Jude's' settlement (B Szaynok). Studies written by J. Kociszewski about the process of integration between Western and North territory with Poland. Therefore, it is reasonable and important to conduct research oriented towards this matter.

2. Lower Silesia was an exceptional area in the Western and Northern Territories. From the 19th century it was the most industrialised land, characterised by high level of development, abundance in natural resources, diverse agriculture and considerably higher agricultural culture than other Polish areas in 1945. Lower Silesia was the only place where the regional plan, devised by M. Orlicz and S. Pietkiewicz, to relocate agricultural settlers along the parallels to the so-called Recovered Territories proved fully successful. This was to a large extent facilitated by the Wrocław-Lviv railway, which was launched soon after the war. With the recovery of Lower Silesia, launched the first wave of settlers. In the first phase of settlement watchword was as soon as possible so the population. Z.O. In mid-1946, settled in these areas 4,000,000 Polish population. Lower Silesia inhabits mainly visitors from the region of Cracow (settled them in 13 counties) and the province of Rzeszow (in 11 counties).

According to the data in November 1946 in Lower Silesia was inhabited by the 1 577 857 people, including: 1 303 736 Polish and 274 212 Germans, whose number as a result of the repatriation of steadily declining. In cities and towns veins 618 622 people in the villages 685 114 people. Overall in Lower Silesia was populated 116 532 farms from 2 to 20 acres and more than 20 hectares. According to statistical reports conducted by the provincial Land Office in Wrocław at the end of 1946, the Polish agricultural population settled 568 739 people of which 286 920 returnees from behind the Bug and San, 7788 repatriates from other countries, 211 715 settlers from the overpopulated central provinces and 62 316 military settlers.

Lower Silesia was an attractive area for settlement because of the richer northern regions than in the settlement network, favorable soil and climatic conditions in the central part of the region, a dense network of road and rail.

In the analyses there will be considered specification of individual micro regions which were caused by social and geographical determinants.

3. The project will be a compilation of historical and economic research. The point of departure for examining the conditions of the agricultural economy in the period 1945–1956 will be a historical analysis of the agrarian structure in the period 1918–1939 in Polish territories and its comparison to the situation of agriculture in selected European countries (England, France, Italy) in the interwar period. There will be made an analyse of economical situation of Eastern Nazi Germany during thirty years of XX century according to plans of economical support which were being made at this time (programme of Hindenburg Ostpreußenhilfe, Osthilfe, Sudeten and programme of support for agriculture (called Bauerhilfprogramm by German Party of Communists). In this context there will be introduced analyse of financing Lower Silesia from Nazi Germany's central budget in comparison to other regions of Germany. Particular attention will be given to the agrarian structure in Germany, including in particular Lower Silesia. This is because it will determine the situation in the selected area after 1945. A certain “closing” balance of German presence in those areas will be a point of departure for evaluating the situation of agriculture after 1945. The first years after the end of the Second World War were a period of intense reconstruction of the country after the war damage, large migratory movements connected with changed borders of Poland as well as with populating and developing the newly annexed Western and Northern Territories. The scale of damage to the national economy was enormous. According to official estimates, losses exceeded pre-war PLN 62b, which constituted circa 38% of value of the national property of 1938. Particularly painful from the viewpoint of standard of living were losses in agriculture, which were estimated at pre-war PLN 5.24b. This meant, among others, reduction in the total number of horses to 45% of the 1938 level, of cattle to 33%, pigs to 17%, and sheep to 37%, in 1945.

It should not be forgotten that during the second World War agriculture on Lower Silesia, as well as industry were being involved in work for military purposes. The main problem during that time was lack of people for work caused by common mobilisation. During the war period Lower Silesia was one of the most peaceful parts of Nazi Germany. This situation had changed at the end of the war and was caused by movement of military front. Germans moved part of productive potential into the middle of Germany and part of it has been destroyed because of strategic reasons. Until today it is hard to say what part of estate has been devastated and what part has been confiscated. The Red Army in January 1945 crossed the border between Poland and Germany in the area of Praszki. Directions of each operation made by Soviet and Polish Armies determined influence towards territorial placement of destruction. Ferocity of battles, devastation of retreating German army who knew that they are losing these lands forever, invasion of looters and sabotage action made by German people who stayed there - all those factors ruined agriculture, country and supply base. Large part of lands, buildings and animals have been managed by the Red Army for their own use and was being used to the end of eighties years. Representatives of Polish government at the Conference in Pochdam declared that Soviet Union removed from Western and North Territories utilities (equipment, device) worth about 500 mln dollars of that time. The communist authorities, which assumed power in the country, introduced social and economic reforms. One of the crucial issues was the agrarian reform of 1944 and the concept of agricultural settlement in the so-called Recovered Territories. The problem of developing the Recovered Territories was an object of reflection and research of Rada Naukowa dla Zagadnień Ziemi

Odzyskanych [Academic Council for Issues of the Recovered Territories] (hereinafter referred to as RNdZZO). One of its leading activists was Wincenty Sty , whose concepts exerted a considerable impact on agricultural settlement. One of W. Sty 's concepts aimed at reconstructing the post-German agrarian structure towards medium-sized agricultural holdings with the area of 10–20 ha. The basic line of argument presented by W. Sty originated from agrarists' theses. Sty wrote "I side with medium-sized family agricultural holdings and I also consistently support this line in terms of inheritance issues since I believe that certain economic deficiencies of such agricultural holdings will be compensated with surplus by great socio-political benefits." A separate chapter in the activities pursued by Rada Naukowa dla Zagadnie Ziem Odzyskanych and personally by W. Sty was allotment & settlement cooperatives as part of which organised groups of people were settled. Unfortunately, all concepts of changes in Polish agriculture were abandoned due to the attempts made by the communist authorities to introduce forced collectivisation during the six-year plan. Socialisation of rural areas was, however, not only the implementation of the Marxist ideological vision but also a method of collecting funds for accelerated industrialisation. The function of agriculture in socialist states was defined by ideological considerations and, as pointed out by Oskar Lange, rural areas were supposed to be one of the major sources of capital accumulation and provide funding for industrialisation. "In the initial period, a state entering the industrialisation path must obtain funds for developing industry mainly from agriculture, regardless of its current level." What should be added to this comment by Lange is that every state, during its development period, forms the desired type of an agricultural holding. An analysis of the examined period will demonstrate whether Polish agriculture had a sufficient production base to satisfy its demand for agricultural input (machines, tools, fertilisers, etc.) and whether concentrating the state's efforts on industrialisation and the actions aimed at collectivisation affected the development rate of agriculture. There will be made a comparison between individual and socialised agriculture in the period of my research (in terms of productivity from one ha, size of farm, level of living etc.).

4. Research on the situation of agriculture in the period 1945–1956 requires interdisciplinary knowledge combining economic, historical, sociological and legal knowledge. The research involves analysing source materials collected, among others, in regional and central archives and studying the relevant literature discussing a particular problem. Therefore, it is purposeful to initiate research on social and economic considerations of the situation of agriculture in Lower Silesia in the period 1945–1956.